Consider The Potential Opportunity Costs Before You Sell In May And Go Away!

Performance of S&P 500 Index & 11 Major Sectors (May-October)

Year (May-Oct.)	S&P 500 Total Return	# of Sectors Up	Top Sector Total Return	
2017	9.10%	9	Information Technology	**18.91%**
2016	4.06%	7	Information Technology	**15.83%**
2015	0.77%	7	Consumer Discretionary	**8.37%**
2014	8.22%	10	Health Care	**16.69%**
2013	11.14%	8	Industrials	**18.63%**
2012	2.16%	9	Telecom. Services	**11.96%**
2011	-7.11%	2	Utilities	**7.34%**
2010	0.74%	8	Telecom. Services	**17.15%**
2009	20.03%	11	Financials	**30.85%**
2008	-29.28%	0	Consumer Staples	**-11.43%**
2007	5.49%	8	Energy	**21.06%**
2006	6.11%	11	Real Estate	**20.68%**
2005	5.27%	9	Energy	**15.45%**
2004	2.96%	9	Real Estate	**21.11%**
2003	15.61%	11	Information Technology	**30.01%**

Source: Bloomberg. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

View from the Observation Deck

1. The old axiom in the stock market about selling your stocks at the close of April and then buying back in at the start of November once made some sense from a seasonality standpoint.
2. When the U.S. was more of an industrialized economy it was not uncommon for plants and factories to close for a month or longer in the summer to retool and allow employees to vacation.
3. The theory was that companies would conduct less commerce in that six-month span, which would likely translate into lower earnings.
4. Today, due in large part to globalization, the world is far more interconnected and competitive, and there is less room for downtime, in our opinion.
5. From 2003 through 2017, there were just two instances (2008 & 2011) in which the S&P 500 Index posted a negative total return from May through October, and the 2008 occurrence was during the financial crisis.
6. The average total return for the S&P 500 Index for the May-October periods in the table was 3.68%, which is nothing to run from, in our opinion.
7. Twelve of the 15 top-performing sectors in the table posted total returns in excess of 10.0% (May-October). For comparative purposes, from 1926-2016, the S&P 500 Index posted an average annual total return of 10.16%, according to Ibbotson & Associates/Morningstar.

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